2: Gamble S-5 (1926-1933)1954 AF12 North China AF12

751

It was believed that rain would fall whenever a snake's trail was seen on the road.

Hog cholera was avoided by attaching a small piece of red cloth to a stick and putting it at the gate of the pig sty.

If plague appeared in a village the farmers plucked peach twigs, made them into a bow, and tied them with five colored strings or thread. The bow with a piece of red cloth tied to it was hung on the family gateway.

Anyone who turned his bowl upside down on the table during a meal was sure to choke while eating.

789

Anyone who tore his clothing carelessly must not patch it himself when he was wearing it. He should get some member of his family or a friend to do it for him. While the mending was being done the owner of the garment should hold something in his mouth, like a chopstick or a piece of wheat straw. It was believed that if he did not do this, the owner would lose something.

If new paper was put on a window before the first of the 10th month, a small hole must be left in the corner until after the first of the 10th month. Ghosts and spirits were free to roam from the 15th of the seventh month until the first of the 10th month, when they were shut up for the winter by Ch'eng Huang, god of the city wall. If, when they were on their way back to the other world, the spirits should be unable to find a way out of a room they would bring disturbances and misfortune to the family living in the house.

To ward off evil spirits the farmers often erected a T'ai Shan stone at the corner of their house. This had a tiger's head at the top and five characters on the face of the stone. The geomancers said that the stone should be seven feet five inches in height and that it must be put up at the winter solstice.

The lions on top of the corner stones of the land along the road were regularly black with oil. Every carter that went by used his oil brush to feed the lion with oil and to brush his teeth. It was believed that those who did not feed the stone lions would have their axles broken.

Birth

844

When a child was born, news of the birth and presents were sent to the mother's family. Formerly a book was sent to announce the birth of a son and a bunch of flowers to announce the arrival of a daughter. At the time of our study, however, it was customary to send a book regard-

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

466 743 responsible for the following three duties: (1) physical examination of the workers, (2) prevention of epidemics, and (3) sanitary inspection of the factory.

Physical examination is required of both new and old workers. Any workman who is found to have contracted venereal disease is dismissed immediately. The pupils of the Ming Shin Primary School are also examined at regular intervals.

466 743 751 For the prevention of epidemics, the hospital is stocked with various kinds of anti-toxins. Every worker connected with the factory must be vaccinated, the aged ones alone being exempted. Two days are reserved by the hospital every year for giving free vaccination to the inhabitants of Tangku. In case there occurs an epidemic at Tangku, the workers are immediately noticed and taught preventive measures.

Inspection is held from time to time by the physician of the hospital. Preventive measures for sickness are prescribed for the workers.

164 127 The hospital possesses complete records of cases treated, such as registration cards, diagnoses, prescriptions, diaries of the physician and nurses, and so on. These have lately been carefully studied by the physician and have been compiled into statistics. A part of these statistics, limited to the period from October 1924 to September 1925, is now available for our use and we present them in the appendix of this book.

164 466 From the statistics of sickness and our personal observations, it may be concluded that diarrhoea is the most common disease among the inhabitants of Tangku as well as the Chiu Ta workers. The diseases typical of the Chiu Ta workers are of four kinds. (1) Cold.—They are easily contracted by workers after strenuous exertion and perspiration. (2) Skin inflammation.—This is caused by the dampness of the air and cold vapour in the salt refining room. Its prevalence can be gauged from the fact that as many as 437 cases occurred in the whole year. Skin inflammation is, in fact, an occupational disease. (3) Burns.—This is usually due to contact with boiled brine and hot iron implements. The careless handling of the latter is the sole